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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 30 July 1952

SUBJECT Strikes in the Kladno Area

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1. There have been three separate strike movements in the region of Kladno; 2,000 miners were involved in one, 7,000 in another, and 13,000 in the third. On all these occasions strikes were called after negotiations lasting 24 hours or over, in which Premier Antonin Zapotocky and Frantisek Zupka, chairman of the Central Trade Union Council took a personal part. Negotiations with leaders of the strikes were conducted by Antonin Novotny, secretary of the Central Committee of the Czech Communist Party.
2. The reasons for the strikes were:
  - a. Cuts in overtime pay.
  - b. Use of non-skilled workers to the detriment of skilled workers.
  - c. Lack of security measures in the mines.
  - d. Delays in providing housing for the miners.
3. Neither the Czech Government nor the union organization have been able to convince the miners that strikes are illegal in a socialized state, and neither had dared to take drastic measures against such movements. Strikes are accordingly treated as Party conferences and a minister is rushed to change the aspect of the movement to one of a frank and open discussion. On this basis the strike always brings a settlement in favor of the workers.
4. The latest strike movement also involved the industrial and mining district of Bustehrad.

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